

All the kids are depressed 🐼 by Imin_alot_offandoms69

Series: Songs [6]

Category: Stranger Things (TV 2016)

Genre: Anorexia, Anxiety Disorder, Author Projecting onto characters, Bipolar Disorder, Bisexual Lucas Sinclair, Bisexual Maxine "Max" Mayfield, Bullying, Depression, Drug Addiction, Drug Use, Dustin Henderson Needs a Hug, Eleven | Jane Hopper Needs A Hug, F/F, F/M, Gay Dustin Henderson, Gay Mike Wheeler, Gay Will Byers, Hospitalization, Hugs, Lesbian Eleven | Jane Hopper, M/M, Maxine "Max" Mayfield Needs a Hug, Mike Wheeler Needs a Hug, Panic Attacks, Past Abuse, Past Child Abuse, Past Sexual Abuse, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder - PTSD, Self-Harm, Suicide Attempt, This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things, Trauma, Underage Drinking, Underage Smoking, Will Byers Needs a Hug

Language: English

Characters: Billy Hargrove, Dustin Henderson, Eleven | Jane Hopper, Jim "Chief" Hopper, Jonathan Byers, Joyce Byers, Lucas Sinclair, Maxine "Max" Mayfield, Mike Wheeler, Nancy Wheeler, Original Characters, Robin Buckley, Steve Harrington, Will Byers

Relationships: Billy Hargrove/Original Female Character(s), Dustin Henderson/Lucas Sinclair, Eleven | Jane Hopper/Maxine "Max" Mayfield, Jonathan Byers/Nancy Wheeler, Joyce Byers/Jim "Chief" Hopper, Maxine "Max" Mayfield/Lucas Sinclair, Robin Buckley/Original Female Character(s), Steve Harrington/Original Female Character(s), Will Byers/Mike Wheeler

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Warnings: Graphic Depictions Of Violence, Underage

Chapters: 32

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Summary:

Hospital AU! ♥

- A

1. Playlist ✂

- *Juliet* •
- *Honeypie* •
- *Summer Depression* •
- *I Can't Handle Change* •
- *Verbatim* •
- *Bubblegum Bitch* •
- *Meet me in the pale moonlight* •
- *Greek Tragedy* •
- *Mr. Loverman* •
- *Medicine* •
- *Sweater Weather* •
- *Line Without A Hook* •
- *Twins Size Mattress* •
- *Little Miss Perfect* •
- *Everybody Wants To Rule The World* •
- *Ghosting* •
- *All The Kids Are Depressed* •
- *IDK You Yet* •
- *Amnesia* •
- *I Think Your Really Cool* •
- *Someone To Stay* •
- *Can I Call You Tonight* •
- *Alright* •
- *We Are Young* •
- *Changes* •
- *Sleep Thru Ur Alarms* •
- *4 morant* •
- *Cliché* •
- *This Side Of Paradise* •
- *Put Your Head On My Shoulder* •
- *Little Lion Man* •
- *Like Or Like* •
- *Animal* •
- *Strawberry Blonde* •
- *Coffee Breath* •
- *Be Alright* •
- *Kids In America* •

- *Hold On* •
- *Before You Go* •
- *Someone You Loved* •
- *Waves* •
- *Home* •

[https://youtube.com/playlist?
list=PLGlzCpBM81INwIOzbKsuPXIRE0EMHLwTu](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGlzCpBM81INwIOzbKsuPXIRE0EMHLwTu)

Theres the link for the playlist on YouTube! Each chapter will have a trigger warning since these topics are very triggering to people! At the end I'll put hotline numbers! I love you all and have an amazing day! ♡

2. One ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case file: 490

Notes for the Chapter:

- I Need to cry But I can't get anything out of my eyes. Or my head, did I die? •

Full Name: William Byers

Age currently: 14

Age admitted: 12

Occupation: Student & patient

Hair color: Brown

Eye color: Hazel

Weight: 167 lbs

Height: 5'6

Date Of Birth: March 22nd, 1971

Date Admitted: November 20th, 1983

Date Discharged:

Mother Name: Joyce Byers

Father Name: Lonnie Byers

Siblings: Johnathan Byers

Contact information: ***-***-****

Reasons For Being Here: Anxiety, PTSD,
Depression, Trauma, Self
Harm, Past Child Abuse,
Bullied, & Kidnapping
Survivor.

Will Byers is a sweet boy. He was kidnapped when he was eleven years old. His kidnapper had tortured him and left him with trauma. Lonnie Byers, Will's father, had verbally abused him until Joyce Byers, Will's mother, decided to divorce him. Lonnie left town after the divorce, leaving Joyce with Will and Jonathan, Will's older brother. Will Byers was admitted to Hawkins Mental health center on November 20th, 1983. His current room is 508, but we might move him. He hasn't gotten any better since he was first admitted.

File Number: 490

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Juliet by Cavetown

3. Two ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 703

Notes for the Chapter:

- Ooh Girl don't you stop till you get enough honey. •

Full Name: Lucas Sinclair

Age Currently: 14

Age admitted: 13

Occupation: Student and Patient

Hair Color: Black

Eye Color: Dark Brown

Weight: 127 lbs

Height: 5'9

Date Of Birth: October 13th, 1971

Date Admitted: June 12th, 1984

Date Discharged:

Mother Name: Wendy Sinclair

Father Name: Harold Sinclair

Siblings: Erica Sinclair

Contact Information: ***-***-****

Reasons For Being Here: Anxiety, Trauma, Drug.
addiction, & Bullied.

Lucas Sinclair is a closed off boy. He's dating another patient, Maxine Mayfield. His drug addiction started when he was twelve. Lucas didn't have any friends when he was in school, everyone bullied him for his skin color. The boy developed anxiety years after. Lucas has been improving, but not as much as we'd like. His stay might be longer than it was normally planned. He lives at home with his parents and sister. They moved to Hawkins just a year before Lucas was admitted. He was admitted on December 12th, 1984 at 5:00 p.m.

File Number: 703

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- HoneyPie by JAWNY

4. Three ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 684

Notes for the Chapter:

- Hangin' out where I dont belong is nothing new to me. •

Full Name: Dustin Henderson

Age Currently: 14

Age Admitted: 13

Occupation: Student and patient

Hair Color: Brown

Eye Color: Blue

Weight: 130 lbs

Height: 5'4

Date Of Birth: September 8th, 1971

Date Admitted: October 31st, 1984

Date Discharged:

Mother Name: Christine Henderson

Father Name: Unknown

Siblings: Unknown

Contact Information: ***_***_****

Reasons For Being Here: Anxiety, Truama, Smoking, & Bullied.

Dustin Henderson moved here when he was in the fourth grade. He got made fun of in middle school for his condition. The boy had no friends and only had his mother to play with after school. When he was thirteen he took up smoking so his mother sent him here. He usually sneaks in cigarettes, we have to pry them away from him. He's not getting any better. He was admitted on Halloween at ten am.

File Number: 684

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- I can't handle change by ROAR

5. Four ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 937

Notes for the Chapter:

- Going In The Wind Is An Eddy Of The Truth And It's Naked •

Full Name: William Hargrove

Age: 21

Occupation: Nurse

Hair Color: Brown

Eye Color: Blue

Height: 5'10

Date Of Birth: November 22nd, 1964

Contact Information: ***_***_****

Extra Information: Maxine Mayfield's Older brother.

Billy Hargrove started to Volunteer here when he was seventeen to keep an eye on his sister. He then applied for a job at twenty. He is one of our best Nurses, knowing exactly what tone to use with the children. He usually hangs with our teens but occasionally goes to the young ones to cheer them up.

File Number: 937

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Verbatim by Mother Mother

6. Five ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 071

Notes for the Chapter:

- Got a figure Like a Pin-up, got a figure like a doll •

Full Name: Nancy Wheeler

Age: 21

Occupation: Nurse

Hair Color: Brown

Eye Color: Blue

Height: 5'4

Date Of Birth: January 13th, 1964

Contact Information: ***_***_****

Extra Information: Micheal Wheeler's Sister

Nancy Wheeler is a great nurse. She just started working here after her brother was Admitted. She knows how to keep Eleven Jane Hopper under control and the other kids from not getting too out of hand. She's studying to be a therapist right now.

File Number: 071

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Bubblegum bitch by Marina and the diamonds

7. Six ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 719

Notes for the Chapter:

- You're Running Late With Half Your Make-up On. •

Full Name: Johnathan Byers

Age: 21

Occupation: Nurse

Hair Color: Brown

Eye Color: Brown

Height: 5'8

Date Of Birth: February 6th, 1964

Contact Information: ***_***_****

Johnathan Byers is our newest nurse. He started the job about a month ago and is a prefect fit! He usually spends his time with the litte kids, reading them stories, playing with them. He really loves those kids and they love him. He occasionally spends time with his brother and the teens.

File Number: 719

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Greek Tragedy by the wombats

8. Seven ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 482

Notes for the Chapter:

- I'm Headed Straight For The Floor, The Alcohol Served It's Tour •

Full Name: Steve Harrington

Age: 21

Occupation: Nurse

Hair Color: Brown

Eye Color: Hazel

Height: 5'11

Date Of Birth: April 24th, 1964

Contact Information: ***_***_****

Steve Harrington was one of our first junior nurses. He was really great at his job and took care of the kids extremely well. He got promoted to the teen nurse. He checks their vitals, weights, everything that needs to go in our system. The teens really love him, they're all extremely close to him.

File Number: 482

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Mr. Loverman by Ricky Montgomery

9. Eight ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 984

Notes for the Chapter:

- Understand this, I'm not looking for true love tonight •

Full Name: Robin Buckley

Age: 20

Occupation: Nurse

Hair Color: Blonde

Eye Color: Blue

Height: 5'9

Date Of Birth: July 8th, 1965

Contact Information: ***_***_****

Robin Buckley is our youngest nurse. She skipped a grade in high school and went to the best college in Indiana. Robin knows exactly how to cheer Maxine Mayfield and William Byers up. She often sneaks the kids ice cream, thinking we don't notice. We do but she doesn't need to know that. She's the only one to get Maxine to eat. We're really lucky to have her.

File Number: 948

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Meet me in the pale moonlight by Lana Del Rey

10. Nine ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 801

Notes for the Chapter:

- Pretty Face With Pretty Bad Dreams. No One Knows
I Cry In My Sleep •

Full Name: Maxine Mayfield

Age Currently: 14

Age Admitted: 9

Occupation: Student and patient

Hair Color: Red

Eye Color: Blue

Weight: 106 lbs

Height: 5'3

Date Of Birth: April 16th, 1971

Date Admitted: April 16th, 1980

Date Discharged:

Mother Name: Susan Hargrove

Father Name: Sam Mayfield

Step-Father Name: Neil Hargrove

Siblings: Billy Hargrove

Contact Information: ***-***-****

Reasons for being here: Child abuse since 5, Depression, Self harm, trauma, Anorexia, Bullied, Asthma, & Anxiety

Maxine Mayfield has been bullied her whole life. She got transferred to Hawkins when she was thirteen. Her family had moved here and didn't want to leave her in California. Susan Hargrove divorced her husband Sam Mayfield a couple years before that. Sam had found out about Susan abusing their daughter and was gonna take her to keep her safe. Susan divorced him and married Neil Hargrove, who coincidentally, beats his son. Billy brought Maxine to the California Mental Health Hospital after she attempted suicide on her 11th birthday. He was in hysterics, holding her with her blood all over

him. They kept her there until they moved to Hawkins, when she was transferred here. Billy became a nurse to make sure his sister is okay. Max seems to be extremely shy, Billy saying she's never been this way concerned him. She has anorexia, but we force her to eat somethings. The girl only talks to her boyfriend, Lucas Sinclair, Nurse Buckley, and Nurse Hargrove. She gets Bullied By Eleven Jane Hopper and is scared of most people. We hope to see her improve by the next month.

File Number: 801

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Summer Depression by Girl In Red

11. Ten ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 105

Notes for the Chapter:

- You In Those Little High-Waisted Shorts •

Full Name: Eleven Jane Hopper

Age Currently: 14

Age Admitted: 12

Occupation: Student and patient

Hair Color: Brown

Eye Color: Hazel

Weight: 103 lbs

Height: 5'5

Date Of Birth: February 14th, 1971

Date Admitted: December 21st, 1983

Date Discharged:

Mother Name: Unknown

Father Name: Unknown

Adoptive Father Name: Jim Hopper

Siblings: Unknown

Contact Information: ***_***_***

Reasons For Being Here: Anxiety, Trauma, Bipolar, Experimented on, & substance Abuse

El is well she isn't adjusting well. She's incredibly rude to our staff and our patients. Her favorite to pick on seems to be Maxine Mayfield, she claims it's because of her hair. We've told her time and time again to not do it, but she doesn't listen. We know better than to ask about the experimented on part. She was admitted December 21st, 1984 at 6 am. She's been drinking since she turned twelve. Her father brought her here to teach her a lesson, but we kept her to help. Jim actually insisted on us keeping her. She doesn't actually talk to us, unless she's hurting the other kids, yelling at our staff, or drinking. She sneaks it and acts like we don't know, but we do. If her behavior continues we're gonna have to tell her Father.

File Number: 105

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Sweater Weather by the neighborhood

12. Eleven ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case file: 193

Notes for the Chapter:

- Pick It Up, Pick It All Up. And Start Again. •

Full Name: Joyce Byers

Age: 43

Occupation: Nurse

Hair Color: Brown

Eye Color: Brown

Height: 5'3

Date Of Birth: October 29th, 1942

Contact Information: ***_***_****

Extra Information: William and Johnathan Byers' mother.

Joyce has been working with us ever since we can remember. She got so excited when her son started working with us. Her other son, William, had to be admitted for self harm. That week Joyce was so out of it. She would drink, smoke, and do drugs. She claimed it was medicine but everyone knew what she was doing. We made her leave to take some time for herself and when she came back she was so much better. We really would've hated to let her go, she's one of our best nurses.

File Number: 193

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Medicine by Daughter

13. Twelve ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 208

Notes for the Chapter:

- I Don't Really Give A Damn About The Way You Touch Me When We're Alone. •

Name: Jim Hopper

Age: 43

Occupation: Cheif of police

Hair Color: Brown

Eye Color: Blue

Height: 6'3

Child Name: Elevn Jane Hopper

Date Of Birth: April 10th, 1942

Contact Information: ***_***_****

Jim Hopper adopted Elevn Jane Hopper when she was 11 years old. He came to us when she turned twelve, begging for us to help. We have and she's been here ever since. He visits every day.

File Number: 208

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Line without a hook by Ricky Montgomery

14. Thirteen ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 285

Notes for the Chapter:

- I Make A Point To Be On Time! •

Full Name: Autumn Davis

Age: 21

Occupation: Nurse

Hair Color: Blonde

Eye Color: Blue

Height: 5'7

Date Of Birth: September 21st, 1964

Contact Information: ***_***_****

Autumn Davis came around the same time as Robin Buckley. The two have been inseparable ever since. Autumns much better with the little kids then the teens. That's alright tho. She usually helps Lucas or Dustin out tho.

File Number: 285

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Little Miss Perfect by Taylor Louderman

15. Fourteen ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 294

Notes for the Chapter:

- This Is For The Lions Living In The Wiry Broke Down Frames Of My Friends Bodies. •

Full Name: Rose Garland

Age: 21

Occupation: Nurse

Hair Color: Brown

Eye Color: Blue

Height: 5'4

Date Of Birth: March 12, 1964

Contact Information: ***_***_****

Rose Garland is extremely nice to everyone. She always gives out little candies and chocolates to the teens and reads the little kids bedtime stories. She's usually in Maxine's room at night, that girl can't be left alone. Her roommate just got Discharged and she afraid of the dark when no ones there, so Rose offered to take that night shift. We were all reluctant, but she pulled it off nicely.

Case Number: 294

Notes for the Chapter:

- Twin size matter by the front bottom

16. Fifteen ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case file: 194

Notes for the Chapter:

- Welcome To Your Life •

Full Name: Olivia Alexander

Age: 21

Occupation: Nurse

Hair Color: Brown

Eye Color: Hazel

Height: 5'

Date Of Birth: April 2nd, 1964

Contact Information: ***_***_****

Well Olivia just started working here, we having nothing to say just yet.

Case Number: 194

Notes for the Chapter:

- Everybody wants to rule the world by tears for fears

17. sixteen ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

Case File: 495

Notes for the Chapter:

- I've Been Ghosting •

Full Name: Micheal Wheeler

Age Currently: 14

Age Admitted: 14

Occupation: Student and patient

Hair Color: Dark Brown

Eye Color: Brown

Weight: 127 lbs

Height: 5'10

Date Of Birth: April 7th, 1971

Date Admitted: January 9th, 1985

Date Discharged:

Mother Name: Karen Wheeler

Father Name: Ted Wheeler

Siblings: Nancy Wheeler, Holly Wheeler

Contact Information: ***_***_***

Reasons For Being here: Anxiety, Trauma, Substance abuse,
& Bullied.

Micheal Wheeler came here today at nine pm. We don't know much about him yet but we will soon.

Case Number: 495

Notes for the Chapter:

- Ghosting by Mother Mother

18. seventeen ✂

Summary for the Chapter:

The kids meet each other.

Notes for the Chapter:

- All The Kids Are Depressed •

Trigger warning!

Self harm mentions

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse mentions

Sexual assault mentions

Smoking mentions

Additctions mentions

Underage drinking

Anorexia

January 9th, 1985

"Max! Get up we gotta get weigh you!"

The redhead groaned, putting the pillow over her ears. Steve chuckled and tickled her sides lightly, making her sit up in shock. "Steve! I don't wanna!" The older boy sat on her bed and sighes, "I know honey. How about I get Billy or Robin in there? Would that make it easier?" The girl nodded slowly and Steve smiled. "Alright get some clothes on and let me go get one of em."

"Sweetheart."

"I don't wanna hear it!" The redhead stepped off the scale and quickly walked to the group room where she found an empty room. She sighed and say on the smakl couch, picking at her nails.

"Aw look who it is, all alone!"

"I'm not in the mood El."

"Did someone get fatter?"

"No."

"Oh you got skinnier! The skinnier the better right Maxie?"

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

"I hate you."

"I'm not too crazy about you either red."

"What are you doing here? This isn't your group!"

"Rose told me to come here, didn't know there was an ugly dyke in here!"

As Max was about to say something, a small boy walked in. Max recognized him as Will Byers and smiled shyly at him. "Hey Will! What're you doing here?"

"Nancy told me to Come here."

"The two gays together again!"

"Shut it *Eleven*." The redhead had a smirk on her face. She knew how much the taller girl hated being called her old name. El, obviously angry, balled her hands into fists. She closed her eyes and breathed deeply, counting to ten in her head. "That's low red, especially for you." The girl sat down and looked at the door, counting her breaths.

"El i-"

"Save it *Maxine*."

"I deserved that."

"Yeah you did."

The three kids sat in an awkward silence until there was a soft knock at the door. The three looked up, and the shortest of the group immediately squealed. She ran into the mans arms and hugged him tightly. El and Will walked with curiosity. The male laughed and hugged back, ruffling her hair.

"What're you doing here?!"

"You're brother told me to come to this room." He kissed the top of her head, both still in a tight hug. "Well then I think I should thank him." The redhead smirked in her boyfriends chest. "Yeah I think we should. I also think we should sit down, my legs hurt!" The smaller girl giggled and went to go sit on the couch, the boy following immediately after.

"Thought you were a Dyke. You proved me wrong, Mayfield. Where are my manners? Hi I'm El." The girl looked at the boy and smirked.

"Lucas." He shook her hand. Max cuddled into his side as he wrapped his arm around her. Lucas looked over and saw another boy. "Yes! Another boy oh finally! Hey I'm Lucas."

"W-will. Its n-nice to meet you."

"Yeah, you too Will."

Will smiled softly before looking down and playing with his fingers. El watched the couple with interest. "So how long have you two been together?"

"I think a month after I got here?"

"Yeah. July 4th, 1984!"

The burnette nodded, twirling her hair. Why did she care? It's not like Max's even attractive! Her ugly red hair and annoying big blue sparkly eyes. They reminded her of the ocean, how much she hated the ocean.

"I got weighed today."

"Oh, um how'd it go?"

The redhead took the small weights out of her shorts and shirt, "they weren't enough!"

"Y-you don't eat?" Max looked at Will and shook her head. "Too fat for that shit. Needa' be perfect for my mama to love me."

Two boys entered the room, bumping into each other by accident. They both started apologizing to each other. The taller boy looked close to tears. Was he new? Everyone noticed his heavy breathing and stumbling. Max immediately got up from her seat and walked over to him, pushing the other boy away softly. "Hey its okay. You're gonna be okay here don't worry, just breathe." The tall boy nodded, copying Max's breathing. He calmed down a little and smiled at her. "Your so short!"

"Wow! I help you and that's what I get in return?" She crossed her arms, an unamused look on her face.

"Sorry I just noticed how tiny you were. I'm Mike." He stuck his hand out. She shook it cautiously, "Max." The girl quickly went back to her boyfriend. Nine Nurses then walked into the room. "What the fu-"

"Language Miss Hopper."

"Oh Olivia how are you darling I-"

"Kids we know this might be different, since you aren't with your normal group-"

"Yeah what the hell is that about?!"

"Well this is gonna be your new group. The other ones weren't working for any of you, so we decided to switch it up. We're gonna have one Nurse in here at all times okay?"

The kids all nodded, not fully there. None of them wanted to be there with each other. "Today, since it's new, we're gonna have two nurses in here. Robin and Billy, is that okay with you guys?" They all nodded again.

The other nurses left and the kids were sitting on chairs and couches. Robin and Billy looked at each other, unsure what to do. "Um-"

"Are we just gonna sit here and do nothing?"

"El please-"

"No! I don't understand why you had to move me! I was perfectly fucking fine!"

Billy wanted to laugh at her profanity, but decided against it. "It wasn't Buckley's decision, you have problems go to Byers. Okay sit in a circle, you guys need to know each other-"

"I know her good enough. Can I go now?"

"El! Robin help me out here!"

"No can do Hargrove, this is halarious."

"I hate you, you know that right?"

"You may have mentioned it a couple times."

"Whatever okay well Name age why your here and favorite song?"

"You can start *Hargrove*," El smirked at him. The older boy looked at Robin and frowned. "Look what you've done." Robin just laughed and sat in one of the chairs.

"Fine! Okay I'm Billy Hargrove, I'm 23, I'm a nurse here-"

"Obviously!"

"-And my favorite song is *verbatim*."

"Is it any good?" Billy looked at the boy with curly hair and nodded. "I'll sneak you a Walkman."

"I'll go next, since I know none of you are gonna go. Robin Buckley, 20, Nurse, and *Meet me in the pale moonlight*."

"T-thats a nice s-song."

Robin looked at the shy boy and nodded, "it really is. You wanna go?"

"Y-yeah. Um My names W-will, I'm here for PTSD um depression? Anxiety, self harm, and I mean I was a kidnapping survivor? My favorite song is *Juliet*. Oh! I-im 14."

Robin gave him a small smile, "thanks Will. Don't worry no ones judgemental here." Max shook her head at him and winked, pointing at El then made a face. Will smiled when he realized the other girl didn't notice.

"El, since you love to talk, why don't you go?"

The burnette looked up and glared at Billy. "Well my names El, I'm 14, here because I got a nice a-"

"El!"

"Fine fine. Um PTSD, Anxiety, what else oh bipolar? Trauma and because I like drinking?"

"Substance abuse."

"Right that. Also my favorite song is *sweater weather*."

"Nice. Who wants to go next?"

"I'll go!" Everyone looked at the curly haired boy, who slumped back in nervousness. "Um neverm-"

"Its okay, you can go last if you want?" The boy nodded at Robin. She gave him a small smile and turned to Lucas. "You wanna go?"

"Yeah sure. Well I'm Lucas, 14, um Anxiety, Truama, and drug addiction. *Honeypie*."

"I've never heard it, is it good?" Lucas turned to El and nodded, "it's amazing."

"Three left. Max?" The girl shook her head at her older brother. "Come on Maxie! I wanna know more about you and your love for girls!"

"El Hopper! That is extremely Inappropriate!"

"I-"

"It's okay Billy. Well I'm Max, 14, Depression um anorexia, child abuse I guess? Self harm, Truama-"

"Damn you're quite the package huh."

"Summer depression."

"What?"

"That's my favorite song."

"Intresting."

"Okay boys, who's going first." The tall boy looked at the nervous boy and sighed. "Mike, 14, Substance abuse-"

"Yes! Someone else to drink with."

"Anxiety and trauma. Then my favorite song has to be *ghosting*."

"Dustin, 14, anxiety truama and ig I'm addicted to smoking. Then *I can't handle change*."

"Alright Hargrove, the fuck we gonna do now?"

"Oh um well you guys are getting new roommates!"

"What!" All the kids, except Max, we're shocked.

"Well I mean," Robin looked at the kids. "Your last roommates were other kids in your group, so now we have to change them."

"Do I have to get a roommate? I've been doing just fine without one!"

"No. Sorry Max, but you aren't doing good."

"Who the fuck are our new roommates?"

Dustin looked at El with a frightened look on his face, "c-can you please stop swearing?" El smirked and walked up to him.

"Why? Does it scare you pussy? Are you gonna go home and cry to your mommy about it?"

"El that's enough!"

The whole group was startled by Billy's loud voice. No one had heard him yell before. "You've been extremely rude to everyone since you got here! Stop it okay just let people in, no one can hurt you here. Stop being so tough and pretending everything's okay. That's why your here to get fucking help!"

The burnette looked down, playing with her fingers. Max sighed and looked at her older brother, "Billy-"

"I'm going for a walk."

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- All the kids are depressed by Jeremy Zucker

- A ♡

19. eighteen ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- How Can You Miss Someone You've Never Met •

Trigger warning!

Self Harm mentions

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse

Sexual assault mentions

Anorexia

Smoking

Underage drinking

Addiction

January 9th, 1985

Billy speed walked out of the hospital and pulled a cigarette out of his pocket. A short burnette walked out and stood next to him. "You shouldn't be smoking on the job."

"And you should be working."

"You only smoke when something happens, what's up Billy?" The girl took the cigarette away from him and took a puff.

"I told El off."

"Good someone 'oughta teach that girl a lesson!"

"No Rose, we're not supposed to do that. We have to help them here, not make them feel worse."

"I know Billy, it's okay. We all have days."

"Just imagine if I said that to Max."

"Billy-"

"Rose! Billy! We need you inside!"

"Duty calls," Billy saluted her and smushed his cigarette. The two walked back inside and smiled at Joyce. "Billy you need to go back to that room."

"Yes Mrs. Byers." The man sighed walking back to the teenage room. He saw the kids arguing with Robin and frowned. "What is going on in here!"

"She's saying I have to be in a room with the red dyke over there! She can't keep her hands to herself, which is why she doesn't have a fucking roommate!"

"That's not true! You don't even know me!"

"And I don't wanna!"

"E-el I-"

"What Will!"

"Do not yell at him!"

"Okay Michael, go ahead and save your precious boyfriend!"

"El Jane Hopper that is enough! Do you wanna be watched 24/7 again?"

"N-no."

"Then enough is enough. You're sharing a room with Max and that's final! Dustin you're with Lucas and Mike you're with Will."

All the kids mumbled a fine when Autumn walked in. Robin blushed and looked at her feet, swaying a little. Billy noticed and nudged her shoulder, smirking.

"Hey! Max come on, you're foods gonna get cold."

All the kids looked at Max, expecting her to leave. The shortest of the group shook her head and slumped into her boyfriend's side. "Not

hungry." Lucas squeezed her hand and smiled at her. The girl sighed before getting up and following Autumn out.

"I think that does it for today's session. El go with Robin to collect your stuff from your room. Will and Dustin you can go to the cafeteria for lunch, Mike your stuff is with Joyce we'll pick it up, and Lucas Jonathan will take you to collect your things."

Robin walked El to her room to help her pack. The boys followed Billy to their rooms.

"Hey roomie!" Mike walked into the cafeteria and sat next to Will. The shorter boy put his book down and smiled, "hey Mike! You all packed in?"

"Yeah I decorated my side a little, I hope you don't mind."

"No not at all."

Mike took out his Walkman and headphones. Will looked at him and tilted his head, "whatcha listening to?"

"Oh um your s-song."

Will's face lit up, "really?"

"Yea! It's really good Will, I can see why you like it." The smaller boy smiled and looked down, blushing. He started eating his small portion of fries.

"So lovely to see you here Red!"

"I forgot I was sharing a room with you."

"Don't be like that! You know you love me."

"I don't, I really don't."

"So how's your special meal?"

Max looked down and toed at the ground. She crosses her arms and mumbled a small 'I didn't eat it.'

"Sorry what was that?"

"I didn't eat it."

El smirked, "oh you didn't eat it! Wonderful! While the rest of us have to suffer with cafeteria food, you get special food! And you don't eat it, wasteful."

"It's not easy being skinny! There are so many girls that are skinny! You, Nancy, Olivia, Robin, Autumn. Even Joyce and she's Will's mom. It's bad enough having obnoxious red fucking hair! Would you please just shut the hell up for once El?! You of all people should know what it's like."

The burnette frowned, not fully aware that she was hurting the smaller girl. "Max I-"

"Save it." The redhead walked over to her bed and laied under the covers. She rolled over so her back was facing El and tried to fall asleep. The burnette just stared at her, upset. Max huffed and rolled over.

"You know I can feel you staring at me."

"Yeah I know."

"Would you quit it?"

"You're right Max, your red hair really is fucking ugly. It's so ugh! Makes you look like a clown. Maybe that's why mommy and daddy hit you. Couldn't stand that red hair, wanted to get rid of it without cutting it off."

The redhead's percing blue eyes filled up with tears. She shot up from her bed and ran out of the room. El looked down, angry at what's shes done. But she didn't mean to say anything mean! She wanted to complement the girl, tell her to style it better with butterfly clips or flowers. It came out horribly wrong and her mouth kept moving and moving. She grabbed her pillow and started sobbing into it.

"I hate you." The small girl was in the bathroom, staring at herself in the mirror. "I hate your stupid blue eyes, and your ugly hair! I wish you were never born. You're a disgrace to your whole fucking family. Can't do anything right!"

The girl was reciting the words her mother use to say to her in the middle of the night. She punched the mirror, sobbing loudly. She put her bright red hair into a pony tale and looked down at the sink. Shiny silver shards sat in the tub. She grabbed one with shakey hands. The blue-eyed girl lifted her sleeve and place the shard on it. She dragged it across her wrist, harshly. The girl cried out in pain. She kept going, stopped crying after the fifth mark. It didn't hurt anymore.

"Max?"

The girl turned around, fiddling with her sleeves. "Hey Dustin! What's up?"

"Sorry if I scared you, but could I ask you something?"

"Oh yeah of course!"

"Who's the girl on Lucas' wall?"

"O-oh her. I can't answer that, you might have to ask him yourself."

"Oh okay, thanks anyway."

Max nodded and walked back to her room. El was sitting on her bed, reading a book. The burnette looked up for a moment before looking down at her book, then looking up again. "Max!"

"What do you want this time?"

"Your arm! It's bleeding!"

Max looked down at her covered arm and noticed the dripping blood.

Shit, they must still be bleeding. El shut her book, jumping out of her bed and walking to Max. The redhead walked to her side of the room as El closed the door.

"Let me see your arm!"

"Why? So you can have more things to say?"

"To clean it!"

Max was confused now. El was trying to help her?

"Are you sick?"

"What! Max I need to clean it!"

The girl shook her head and looked down. El walked closer, "Max let me see." She shook her head again, her heart racing. "Max please!" The girl was backed up into a wall now. El sighed and grabbed Max's arm, lifting her sleeve. She gasped when she saw her arm. The new cuts looked deep. There were older ones.

"Fucking hell Max! What were you thinking!" El rushed over to her side of the room, grabbing a first aid kit. She rushed back over to Max and opened the kit. El started cleaning her arm.

"What did you use? Jesus Max! This is more blood than when I'm on my period!"

Max wanted to laugh. Her tormenter, cleaning her cuts, making jokes with her. It was laughable if the situation wasn't terrifying. El was gonna tell someone, surely she was. Billy was gonna be disappointed in her, no ones gonna trust her again. El bandaged her arm and sighed. "All done. Do you wanna change?" Max nodded and got out her sleep shorts and tank top. "I'll turn around." El looked the other way, giving the girl privacy.

"I-im done."

El turned around and gasped. The girl was pale, all over. Freckles littered her skin like sprinkles on icecream. She had scars and faded burns all over her small body. Her bones stuck out. She looked so

fragile, so broken. Her hair was a mess and her mascara was dripping down her face. Her beautiful face was all splotchy and her blue eyes were red. That blue held a story, a story no one could ever imagine. El wanted to know that story. "Let's get you into bed."

She walked over and led Max to her bed, tucking her in. She went to go sleep in her own bed, but felt a hand grab her wrist. She turned and looked at the broken girl. Her eyes were filling with tears again.

"P-please don't go." Her voice was so quiet, so soft, so unlike Max Mayfield. It was more Maxine, the soft feminine girl her mother always wanted her to be. El nodded and crawled into the small bed, turning the lamp off. She wrapped her arm around Max and allowed the smaller girl to lay her head on her chest. The redhead fell asleep quicker and El found herself wanting to know more about the broken girl. She kissed Maxine forehead and played with her hair, falling asleep shortly after.

Suicide hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- IDK you yet by Alexander 23

20. Nineteen ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- Sometimes I start to wonder, was it just a lie? •

Trigger warning!

Self harm

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse

Sexual Assault mentions

Anorexia

Smoking

Underage drinking

Addiction

Past rape

Rape mention

January 10th, 1985

"Girls! Wake u- woah."

The two girls woke up, still tangled in each others embrace. Max scrunched her face up in disgust, and pushed El off the bed. Her face was now as red as her hair. "Ew! Get off!"

El huffed, getting up from the floor. She walked over to her side of the room and started getting out clothes. "Come to the room when you girls are done." And with that Olivia walked away. Max glared at the burnette. "What the hell!"

El turned to look at her, "what?"

"What was that!"

"Do you not remember what happened last night? What you did!"

Max thought about it for a second before her glare grew softer. Now she remembers. El scoffed and went to the bathroom to change. She walked out to find Max was in the same position she left her in. El

turned to leave when Max called out her name. She turned to her and crossed her arms. "Thanks." El smiled softly and walked out. *What are you doing to me, Mayfield.*

The kids sat in the room, waiting for their breakfast. Lucas sighed when he saw Max. She smiled at him and sat next to him, snuggling into his side. "Max?"

"Yeah?"

"I need to talk to you."

"Oh what's up?"

Lucas looked around and saw four faces staring at them. "Not here." He grabbed her hand and walked to his room. "What's wrong?"

"Max I-I think we need to break up." Max's smile fell and tears pricked her eyes. Gosh this girl was sensitive. "What?"

"I'm sorry it's just the only thing we were doing was kissing and I-"

"And you thought you could get into my pants?!"

"What! No Max I just-"

"No Lucas I understand, you only wanted me because I'm hot. Because I have an ass and boobs and you thought you could take my v-card didn't you? Well guess what that was taken when I was fucking five so h-"

"I'M GAY!"

"What?"

"I've known for a while now, I just didn't wanna hurt you. I was so confused and then I met these people and- are you mad at me?" He looked up at her tearfully. Max sighed and grabbed his hands in hers, caressing them softly. "I could never be mad at you. I'm a little hurt, but that's normal for getting broken up with, but no Lucas I'm not

mad. I'm proud of you for telling me." She hugged him softly and let him cry into her shoulder. They pulled away after.

"So I guess this is it." She stood up and walked to the door. "Guess so. Friends?" The redhead smiled at him, "always." And with that she left.

The two went back to the room and sat away from each other. Everyone was confused, knowing how clingy the lovebirds were. Billy walked in and smiled brightly when he saw Max away from Lucas. He clapped his hands together and all the kids looked up, "alright who wants breakfast?"

Steve came in with a cart of six plates, one with with pancakes stacked on top, a plate of bacon, jug of orange juice, and a nice bouquet of flowers. He put two pancakes on each plate with bacon. "Steve." The man looked at Billy and nodded, "Max's vegan." The redhead looked up and shook her head, "oh I'm not really hungry ri-" everyone looked at her.

Billy started giving everyone their plates as Steve weighed Max, in front of them. No one minded, it was a hospital after all. "69 pounds." Everyone started staring at her again, most dropping their forks in shock. "Billy-"

"You lost ten pounds Max."

"Billy I'm not hungry."

He ignored her as he started putting the pancakes on a plate. He put about ten of them and handed them to her. "Billy that's too-"

He smacked his hand on the table, startling all the kids. "Ten pounds Max! You're eating, all of it!" The redhead nodded, tears sprouting in her eyes. He handed her the plate. She began eating to satisfy him. The rest of the kids started conversing quietly.

"Can I use the bathroom?" Billy looked up from his cards and nodded, "take El with you." The redhead looked at the taller girl and gave her puppy dog eyes. El gave in and stood up with her arms crossed. The two walked out of the room quickly and quietly.

Max was now sitting on the floor, her fingers down her throat. They made her gag a little before she ended up throwing her breakfast up. El knocked on the stall door softly, "are you throwing up?" The redhead flushed the toilet and walked to the sink, washing her hands. "Do you have gum?"

"No and even if I did I wouldn't waste it on you. Why'd you throw up?"

"Why do you care?"

"I'm sleeping in the same room as you, I don't wanna get sick. Jesus I thought blondes were the dumb ones." Max glared at her.

"I'm not sick."

"Then why'd you throw up?" Max looked down and shrugged, putting her hands in her pockets. She gently rocked back and forth on her feet. "Jesus Max! Answer me you little bitch!" The redhead looked up, tears filling her eyes. El reminded her of her mother. "Shut up! Why are you like this?! What the fuck happened that made you so evil?!"

The burnette looked at her angrily, "you wanna know Max?! You wanna fucking know what happened in my life? I was experimented on when I was a kid, tortured. I escaped when I was twelve, I also rarely ever ate. Someone fed me and put me in the adoption center, not knowing what to do with me. Then my dad adopted me and I was, in your words, a bitch ever since."

"El I-"

"You're weak Mayfield. You wouldn't know suffering If it hit you in the face! You think pain is getting hit by mommy and daddy because you're a queer. News flash, it isn't! They were just teaching you what the real words like." *Stop talking, El.* "You're lucky that's all you got, surprised your a virgin. How much would they beat you if there was a baby in your tummy? Not like you have a stomach, 69 pounds? What a fucking joke Max." *You're hurting her.* "Wonder if you're lying about being a virgin. Maybe Billy stu-"

"His dad raped me." El jumped back. All the things she said, and Max

only paid attention to that. Don't say something you're gonna regret. "Damn, Max. That's really something, but I didn't ask. And I don't care. Back to our topic, why'd you throw up?"

"I made myself."

"No shit, Mayfield! *Why* is the question, not how!"

"To be skinny, idiot."

"YOU'RE FUCKING SKINNY OH MY GOD MAX!" The burnette grabbed Max's arm harshly and tugged. She wrapped her hand around Max's wrist, her grip becoming loose because of how skinny she was. "This isn't healthy, Mayfield."

"I don't care. Can we go please?"

The two boys sat in their beds, reading comics. It was ten at night and the only way they knew was because of Dustin's wrist watch. Lucas looked up at the other boy longingly. "Hey Dustin?"

The curly haired boy looked up and nodded at him. "Is it bad I broke up with Max?" The other boy was shocked at this, "why?"

"I um she just wasn't my type anymore."

"What is you type?"

"B-boys."

"Shit really? That's awesome! Me too- I mean wait shit." Lucas smiled at the boys silliness. "How'd she take it?" The dark-skinned teen shrugged, "I think she was okay."

Suicide hotline: 800- 273- 8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- Amnesia by 5sos

- A

21. twenty ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- Fuck love it's all a lie •

Trigger warning!

Self harm

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse

Sexual Assault mentions

Anorexia

Smoking

Underage drinking

Addiction

January 11th, 1985

"Breakfast!"

Will and Mike woke up at the same time, quickly realizing they were in the same bed. Will blushed and got off the bed quickly, "s-sorry." He walked to his side of the room and change in the bathroom, walking out to find Mike had already left. He sighed walking to the small room they usually were in.

"Will Byers! So nice of you to finally join us!" Will looked at the voice and played with his finger. Max rolled her eyes, "El give it a rest, would you? Will come sit next to me!" The small boy smiled and went to go sit next to the redhead.

Steve walked in with Rose next to him. The cart had waffles and chocolate milk. There was syrup and all kinds of fruit. On the bottom of the cart were the silverware, plates, napkins, and a scale. "Okay come on I gotta take your weight before you guys eat." The kids all groaned and looked at him. "I know I know. Don't blame me though, I'm not the bad guy here. Okay Lucas you wanna go first?" The dark-skinned boy nodded and walked over to Steve.

"130 pounds." Steve smiled at him, patting his head. He wrote it down on his clipboard as Lucas grinned and grabbed a plate. He started piling food onto it and went to go eat at the small table that was in the room. "Dustin?" The curly haired boy nodded and walked onto the scale.

"158 pounds. Good job dude!" Dustin gave him a high-five as he took a plate too. He placed one waffle and a few blueberries on the plate. He then drizzled syrup on the waffle and took a glass of chocolate milk. Dustin sat next to Lucas and the two quickly started to converse. "Will?"

The shy boy walked up to Steve and played with his sleeves. He stepped on the scale and waited for the numbers to show up. Steve looked down and smiled, "146. You lost some bud." Will smiled brightly and stepped off the scale. He put two waffles on his plate and got some raspberries with it. He went to go sit next to the two boys who included him in their conversation immediately. "Mike you wanna go?"

Mike walked over to Steve, sighing. "Do I have to?" Steve pressed his lips together and nodded. The tall boy stepped onto the scale and waited impatiently. "130. Nice." Steve did finger guns at the boy making him laugh. Mike piled his plate almost as much as Lucas had. "El come on sweetie."

The burnette smirked at Max and went to the scale. She looked straight ahead and stepped off when Steve told her to. "101. Go eat," he smiled at her. She took five waffles and sat at the table. "Max, Come on."

"But you did it yesterday."

"I know but I have to see today."

"How come they only do it once a week?"

"Max you know this!"

"Yeah, but I don't think I lost any weight!"

"Well then let's see if you gained any. You ate yesterday."

"Rose help me out here!" Rose sighed and looked at her. "Max please. I could get Billy if you want?" The redhead huffed and stood on the scale. Steve looked and clicked his tongue, "Max you went down two pounds!" She rolled her eyes and went to go sit on the couch again. Just then Joyce Byers walked into the room. "Hey kids! How's everyone feeling?" She had her bright smile as always. All the kids groaned in response, which made her chuckle. She looked at Max on the couch and frowned, "you're not eating?" The redhead shrugged, "not hungry Mrs. Byers." The woman nodded and smiled at her son, "just letting you know tomorrow is visiting."

El smiled brightly at this, she missed her dad. "Do you know the times?" Joyce looked at her paper before nodding, "I think from ten to eight?" All the kids started talking about how excited they are to see their families, all except Max. Mike looked over at the redhead on the couch and frowned, "you're not excited to see your family?"

Max scoffed before she remembered he only came yesterday. "Keep forgetting you weren't here that long. They never show, I don't want them here, it's a win-win." She smiled at him. "O-oh I'm sorry." She shook her head, "don't be."

"Lights on or off?"

Will looked up from his book and thought for a second, "on if you don't mind?" Mike smiled and kept the lights on. He walked to his bed and sat down. "This place is so boring." He huffed, throwing himself onto the bed. Will giggled and placed his bookmark in the page and closed it. He placed the small book onto his night stand and sighed. Mike sat up straight, an idea in his head. "We should sneak out!" Will laughed and shook his head. Mike's eyebrows furrowed, "what's so funny?"

"Nothing it's just, we've tried before. Just keep getting caught."

"Well that's cause your doin' it wrong!"

"Mhm and how did we manage to do that?"

"Well for one, you didn't have the master of sneaking out."

"And who might that be?"

"Me! Duh."

"Okay, your highness. How would we sneak out?"

"First we get the others on board then I tell you my plan."

"Hm fine! We can try again."

"Have you guys even ever made it out of the hospital?"

"Nope." He drew out the 'p'.

Will laied down and smiled, "you're not so bad Wheeler." He then turned off the lamp and rolled over, facing away from Mike.

"Yeah, you're not so bad either Will."

Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255

Domestic violence: 800-799-7233

Crisis textline: 741741

Notes for the Chapter:

- I think you're really cool by guardian

- A ♥

22. twenty-one ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- We all need someone to hold •

Trigger warning!

Self harm

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse

Sexual Assault mentions

Anorexia

Smoking

Underage drinking

Addiction

January 11th, 1985

"What're we doing today Livy Liv?" Olivia glared at El and sighed. "No idea. Oh! We could talk about how you guys feel about Saturday? Who wants to go first?" She looked around the room at the teens. "Come on you guys," she sighed, "if we're gonna get somewhere we need to talk!" Max looked up from her lap, "fine! They're stupid."

The rest of the kids heads snapped towards her. "No they're not. You just think they're stupid because no one visits you," El said crossing her arms. "Exactly! Imagine your mom apologizing for abusing you, putting you in the hospital in cali where she visits ever fucking week, then your stupid family moved to goddamn Hawkins where your transferred only to never see them again! You have it so easy El." Olivia looked at the redhead and sighed.

"Why do you think they don't come?"

The redhead pulled her knees up to her chest. "Because they hate me."

"Max, they don't hate you."

"They're disappointed. Imagine giving birth to a stupid girl that can't do anything right. They don't come because it'll ruin their fucking reputation! As far as this town concerned, I don't exist. Only Billy fucking bitch has it easy."

"C-can I go to the bathroom?" The group look at Dustin. Olivia nodded, "Lucas could you go with him?" The dark-skinned boy nodded and went to the bathroom with Dustin.

Lucas knocked on the stall door, "you okay in there?"

Dustin was trying to control his breathing. He breathed in and out quickly, which made it worse. "Dustin?"

"Shit!" The curly haired boy kicked the stall door. He couldn't breathe, it was getting harder. The stall was closing in on him. Just then Lucas slammed the door open, scaring Dustin in the process. "Shit dude. Hey its gonna be okay." Dustin immediately grabbed Lucas's hand and tried to control his breathing. "Hey hey slow down man. You're gonna be okay just- just follow my breathing. In through your nose and out through your mouth. Take deep breaths bud. There you go you're okay, you're gonna be okay."

Lucas pulled Dustin out of the stall and turned on the water. He took some paper towel and wet it a little, then began to dab it around his face. "You okay?" The curly-haired boy nodded, "how do you know how to-"

"Max."

"She taught you?"

"Nope. I had to learn to help her. And I guess I also learned since she had to help me too."

"That odly makes a lot of sense," he laughed lightly. Lucas smiled and chuckled, "yeah. So can I ask what happened?"

"Oh um yeah. I- she was just talking about how her parents hate her and it just I dunno. I guess I can understand you know? If I ever told

my mom I was gay she would kill me."

"You're gay?"

"Shit um y-yeah."

"Same I m-mean cool!"

"You're gay too?"

"Yeah." Lucas scratched the back of his neck and smiled.

"We're the gay roommates." This made both of them laugh. "Thanks for helping, I appreciate it."

"Of course. I know what it's like to have no help at all. We should go back now."

"O-oh yeah."

The two boys walked back to the room, cheeks both tinted pink. Lucas grabbed his hand as they started to make their way in, which made Dustin's face equivalent to a tomato.

"Okay good you two are back. I have to go for a couple minutes, can I trust you guys alone?"

Will and Mike looked at each other with a smirk. El looked at the two confused then looked back at Olivia, "yeah you can trust us." Olivia rolled her eyes and crossed her arms, "no I need to hear it from someone else."

"Why!"

"I don't trust you."

"Then-"

"Don't worry we'll make sure she doesn't do anything. You can trust us." Olivia and El looked at Mike. Olivia smiled while El glared at him. "Thank you Mike. I'll be back as soon as possible."

Olivia walked out of the room. "What the hell was that for Micheal?!"

Mike rolled his eyes and ignored El. "Do you guys wanna sneak out?"

Max sat up straight then sunk back down. She crossed her arms, "I've been trying for years. Never worked."

"Years? How long have you guys been here for?"

"Let's see I went to the one in cali on my birthday- that minus- five years."

"I think it's been two years?" El started to count of her fingers, "yeah. Two years."

"Dustin and I came at the same time. I think it's a year?"

"Yeah it's been a year."

"I c-came the same time as El. So two years."

"Anyways, I've tried countless times. Never works, never gonna." Max started to play with her nails. "Then you must've been doing it wrong." She looked up at the tall boy and sighed, "I mean it is possible. Never had friends to do it with so probably makes sense. It's not really a one person job. Okay let's do it!"

El smiled at Will, "yeah I could use a night out of here. Alcohol and sex, where are we gonna go?"

Mike rolled his eyes at the burnette, "theres this club close to here. We could go there, I know how to make fake IDs to help us get some drinks."

"You think we could pick up a pack of cigarettes on the way?" Everyone looked at Dustin. "I mean yea sure. Why not," Will said smiling at the curly-haired boy. "I have a guys adress close to here. We could get cigarettes and some pills from him?" Mike nodded at Lucas. "Okay bring a small back pack I'm guess one of the girls have one?" They all looked at Max and El. "I have this small pink one?" El said remembering the small pink backpack with roses detailed on it in her room. "Too bright." Max thought for a second, "I think I have a black one." Mike nodded again, "I'll get the IDs give me your bag when you get it. I'd wait a couple days so maybe the 13th?" Everyone

else nodded. "Perfect."

Notes for the Chapter:

- someone to stay Vancouver clinic
- A

23. twenty-two ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- I'm trying to make up my mind •

Trigger warning!

Self harm

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse

Sexual Assault mentions

Anorexia

Smoking

Underage drinking

Addiction

January 12th, 1985

Robin was in the small kitchen with the rest of the nurses. She was biting on the bottom of her pen while staring at Autumn. The other girl was talking to Nancy and Jonathan. Just then, Robin left a liquid run down her lips and chin. She quickly took the now broken pen out of her mouth and grabbed a bunch of napkins. Billy laughed, watching the girl trying to make the ink go away. "You okay there tiger?" Steve asked, getting up from the couch and walking over to her. Rose and Olivia looked up from the magazine they were reading. Robin smiled, nodding.

Autumn walked over to her and grabbed the napkin. "Sweetheart, your making it worse," she said softly. Robin's legs felt like jelly. "S-shit i-i," Autumn shushed her and began to clean up the mess of ink. Billy smirked at Robin, putting a cigarette between his lips. The whole room was staring at the two now. Autumn pulled the napkin away, smiling at her. "There we go," she said looking into the other girls eyes. "T-thanks."

It was now ten at night. Robin, Autumn, and Nancy had a night shift.

Nancy was saying goodbye to Jonathan, Steve was cleaning his office, and Billy was saying goodnight to Max. "Autumn?" Robin said, looking up from her papers.

"What's up Rob?" She blushed at the nickname.

"Do you um- I mean would you- shit I can't do this."

Autumn walked over to Robin, causing her heart rate to increase. "Woah, slow down. What's up?" She sat next to the blue-eyed girl. "Fucking Billy telling me to go for it!"

"Okay you're confusing me."

"Autumn I-" Well she couldn't say it with words, so, she kissed her. Autumn pulled away, staring at the younger girl in shock. Robin looked down with tears in her eyes. She started to pack her things.

"I'm sorry I should go. I don't know-"

"Robin."

"I never should've done that I'm so-"

"Robin."

"Jesus christ why did I-"

"ROBIN."

The younger girl froze. Autumn walked over to her and held her face in her hands, "I like you too."

Notes for the Chapter:

- A

24. twenty-three ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- But we're alright •

Trigger warning!

Self harm

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse

Sexual Assault mentions

Anorexia

Smoking

Underage drinking

Addiction

"Hey Steve?"

"Yeah sweetheart?"

"You got any of those lollipops left?"

"Sure do, El. You can have two." He held the bowl in front of her.

El threw two blue lollipops at Max. "Take 'em, I'm tired of you whining." The redhead looked up, her eyes shining. "What-"

"You were whining last night about lollipops."

"No I wasn't?"

"Yes you were."

"Thanks but I don't-"

"Eat. I know, just take them."

"Thanks El."

"Yeah."

"Hey Will! You ready for tomorrow?"

Will looked up from his comic to see Mike walking into the room. He giggled, nodding. "Shhh don't be loud!" Mike smiled warmly, "oh yeah I forgot!" Will shook his head smiling while going back to his book.

Mike looked at the boy longingly. He got this weird feeling in his stomach everytime him and Will touched, accidentally or not. It didn't hurt, but the ache his chest always did. Will was kind and understood people well, trusted people. Oh. Oh no. Not again, please not again. Mike mentally begged the gods.

I just met him! Please I don't wanna mess this up.

Will looked up to see Mike staring at him. "Hey you okay?" He asked, concerned for his new friend. Mike nodded and smiled to show that everything was okay. "Hey we should sleep, wanna be well rested for tomorrow," the raven-haired boy said, winking. Will laughed at him and put his book down on the night stand. "You wan the light on her off?" He asked putting his hand on the lamp. "Off."

Both boys laied in the bed, thinking about their feelings.

Notes for the Chapter:

- A

25. twenty-four ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- So let's set the world on fire •

Trigger warning!

Self harm

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse

Sexual Assault mentions

Anorexia

Smoking

Underage drinking

Addiction

Lucas stood by the entrance, hiding behind a flower pot. Mrs. Byers left for the night and he grinned, waving frantically at his group. Mike was in front of the small group waiting for Lucas's signal. He quickly, and quietly, led them to the front door. Max's small backpack was carrying the stuff they had gotten. Fake IDs, cigarettes, and small bottles of alcohol. The gang had stuffed money into their pockets. They made it out the door and quickly ran to the street where Mike's friend parked his car.

Mike hurriedly got everyone in the van, pushing Max in and slammed the door closed. God that girl was slow. He got in the drivers seat and started to drive, ignoring the speed limit. Max crawled into the passenger seat and smacked him in the back of the head.

"The fuck was that for, Wheeler?"

"You're extremely slow, short-stack."

"Just because you're a goddamn giant doesn't mean you can push me around!"

"You would've gotten us caught! You're lucky I actually like you and didn't leave you behind."

Max leaned over and kissed his cheek sweetly. "You know you love me."

"That I do."

El didn't know why but her heart stung at that. They were just being friendly with each other. And she didn't even like Max! She must have a crush on Mike. Yeah, that has to be it.

Lucas spoke up from next to her, "so where we goin' Mike."

Mike looked at the mirror before looking back on the road. "There's a club I use to go to, they know me there. My friends could get us in." El looked up, grabbing the bag harshly from Max's hands. "Hey! You could've asked," the ginger said crossing her arms. "Shut up fire crotch." She said, taking out the small bottles of Vodka. There were six bottles total. She started to pass the bottles around, making sure to give everyone a bottle of their own.

"Yo Maxi-pad, could you open it for me?" Mike asked not taking his eyes off the road. She opened it, rolling her eyes. "Call me that again and I'll slice your dick off." She put it in his mouth, causing him to drink it all in one go. He spit the now empty bottle out at her. "Dude! I could've choked!"

"Good."

"Jesus Mayfield, you trying to kill us all?"

"No, just you."

"Do you know how annoying you are?"

"Why are you such a brat?"

"I am not!"

"Yes you are you-"

"Do you two ever shut the fuck up?!" Dustin yelled, drinking from his bottle. Max rolled her eyes yet again, "it's his fault! Dumb bitch started it."

"My fault! You almost made me choke!"

"You wouldn't have."

"I might've!"

"But you didn't!"

"I could've!"

"BUT YOU DIDN'T!"

"I COULD'VE!"

Will sighed, putting a hand on his forehead. The other two kept arguing back and forth as the rest of the gang looked at each other. "We're gonna need a lot more alcohol to survive these assholes."

Mike finally pulled into the parking lot, him and Max arguing about God knows what. The gang had enough, each sharing headaches. "Oh my god you guys are relentless! Please can we go inside?" Will said as calm as he could. El looked at him like he was crazy, Dustin was trying to secretly get out of the car, and Lucas was silently praying for the small boy.

You see, you never EVER break up an argument between Max and Mike, unless you want to be included or get yelled at by Max or make the argument 10x worse.

Mike looked at the still rambling Max to his friends then to the club. He opened the car, allowing everyone to get out. Max was still in her seat, yelling at him. The gang waited for the two to get out.

The raven-haired boy threw open his door, shaming it shut.

"Where are you going I'm not- MIKE WHEELER!"

He walked around the car and opened her door, throwing her over his shoulder. He smacked her ass once, kicking the door closed. "Real nice view Max, now behave."

They started to walk inside, the redhead yelling and kicking at Mike. He put her down once they got to the entrance. She smacked him on the cheek hard. He put his hand on her waist, pulling her close to him. "Behave," he whispered to her. She pushed away from him and tried to open the door.

"It's probably a pull situation Max."

She turned to look at the curly haired boy, smiling sweetly. "Yes Dustin it's a pull situation, thank you so much! I may have never known. Now please explain to me how I'm going to pull without a GOD'S DOOR HANDLE ON THIS FUCKING DOOR. WHAT THE FUCK WHO BUILDS BUILDINGS LIKE THIS FUCKING PIECE OF SHIT!" She yelled out at no one directly, kicking and hitting the door. Mike rolled his eyes and knocked on the door three times, pause, twice, pause, then rapidly.

A red-haired girl opened the door. She had a pixie cut and was wearing a pink skirt. "Mike Hey! I haven't seen you in a couple of days!" The girl said, pulling him into a tight hug. "Bev! Hey, these are my friends. You think you could get us in?" The redhead, Bev, licked her lips winking at Max. "Of course darlin', come on."

El's hands turned into Fists after she saw the action Beverly made. Wait no, why was she mad? You like Max. No she doesn't, no. She likes Mike! Yeah and Bev is his friend and she's just jealous.

Bev led them inside, walking to a group similar to theirs. Five boys were sitting at the bar, talking and laughing. "Hey boys!" She called, waving at them. The six of them stood their awkwardly as she sat on one of the boys laps, pulling him in for a kiss. Mike cleared his throat, causing them to pull away. "Guys, these are my friends. That's Bill, Eddie, Stan, Ben, you already met Bev, and Mike."

Will giggled softly causing Mike's heart to flutter. "Two Mike's? I bet that gets confusing."

Eddie smiled shrugging, "we had this Mike first," he said patting the other Mike's shoulder, "so we just call that one other Mike."

El felt a bit relieved that Bev had a boyfriend. She let out a breath

she didn't know she was holding in.

Dustin and Lucas walked off to get drinks, Will following them. Bev walked over to the three with a lot of drinks on a tray, El felt like she was in heaven. They got drunk soon after.

The three were drunk as fuck, Mike not as much. He still had to drive. Max was a lightweight, bitch got drunk after her second glass. El didn't feel anything until her sixth. Mike only had to glasses, wanting to keep an eye on his friends. Will, Lucas, and Dustin were on the roof smoking whatever shit they could get.

Max stood up, dancing to the music. El watched her with a smile on her face. The ginger tripped and almost fell. She started to giggle quietly at herself. El could listen to that laugh for the rest of her life. Max walked over to Mike, standing in front of him. He just laughed at her dance moves. the girl pouted, stopping her awesome dance.

"What's so funny?"

"You're a horrible dancer, Max."

El thought it was kind of cute.

"Oh right, like you could do any better."

"I can!"

"Sure you can, and I'm the queen of NASA."

Her words were slurred and she was swaying. Mike just shook his head chuckling. The girl looked around the room. "Ooo cake!" She went to walk when Mike stood up, wrapping his arms around her waist. "No, you don't know what's in that cake."

"But it's chocolate!"

El wished she could take a picture of this and keep it forever. Max was pouting and trying to get away. Maybe she could get the cake for her and all would be well. El look at Mike, silently asking if she could

go get her a slice. Mike shook his head, sighing when him and Max fell back onto the couch. Bev walked over with a tray, three drinks on it. Max put her hands in the air, trying to reach for the drink. "No no I think you've had enough tonight. El could you get her some water please?" The brunette nodded as she walked over to the bar to get a glass of water.

When she came back, though, she wish she hadn't left. Max was sitting in Mike's lap, he was holding her waist, and they were both making out roughly. She felt an ache in her chest and she didn't even know why. Now, all she wanted to do was find the rest of her friends and get the hell out of there.

El walked away, her main priority was finding her boys. She was about to go up to the roof when she heard someone calling her name.

"El Hopper! What are you doing here?!"

Notes for the Chapter:

- A

26. twenty-five ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- I still feel empty •

Trigger warning!

Self harm

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse

Sexual Assault mentions

Anorexia

Smoking

Underage drinking

Addiction

January 13th, 1985

"El Hopper what are you doing here?!"

Uh oh. She knew that voice anywhere. The brunette turned around to see four faces. Billy was unamused, Robin was disappointed, Autumn was angry. and Steve was worried. He started to check her for injuries, feeling relieved when he saw none. His worried face then morphed into an angry one. Autumn sighed, crossing her arms over her chest. "You the only one or is your little gang here too?"

Should she tell them or save their asses? The girl looked around the room, trying to come up with a decision when a loud noise was heard from the door. Lucas, Will, and Dustin were high out of their minds as they tried to open the door. This time, it was the roofs door, which was made of glass. Will was trying to push it while Dustin was telling him it was pull. The door wouldn't budge, as it was locked from the inside. Lucas had enough and punched the door, breaking the glass. Billy put a hand on his forehead, trying to get rid of the inevitable headache that was going to come from these hooligans.

"El, who else is here?" Robin asked as Autumn and Steve went to the three boys. "Mike and Max, I ca-"

"My sisters here? You guys are in some deep shit."

El nodded as she led the two adults back to where her Max and Mike were sitting. The ginger had finally gotten her cake, happily eating it, while Mike looked like a worn out dad, holding her on his lap. "You have ten second to get your hand off my sister, Wheeler."

Mike just rested his head on her shoulder. "It's not like I'll do anything, I'm gay."

The brunette became confused at this. Had she not just seen them making out or was that a hallucination? Whatever, she's never drinking alcohol ever again. Shit was way too tiring. The four adults got them into the car and drove back to the hospital, or as Lucas likes to call it, their personal Alcatraz. Everyone laughed when they heard him say it the first time, but soon realized how true it was. El couldn't help but notice the way Billy was staring at Max. Steve took the cake with her, after finding out nothing bad was in it. She assumed he was just happy since she was actually eating something.

They finally arrived at the hospital and the four nurses snuck the kids back in. Billy was tucking Max in while she rambled on and on about how pretty the club was. El looked up from her book sighing. "Billy, can I ask you something?"

The way El was talking surprised him. She never sounded so quiet. He walked over to her, kneeling at the side of her bed. "What's up munchkin?"

"Okay well I have this um friend and she's straight, she knows for sure that she is, but she has these two friends, a boy and a girl. Everytime her friends touch each other or joke with each other, she gets jealous. They um went to the park? to meet up with one of the boys friends and his friend was winking at her other friend. She got upset? Mad? I have no idea but she was relieved when she saw that the girl, the boys friend, had a boyfriend. S-"

"Slow down Hopper, you lost me. What friend? Is something bad happening to her? What are-"

"I think I like girls."

"Oh, that's what this is about."

"I think I like Max."

"Max? As in my sister Max? As in-"

"The one I always bully? Yes that Max."

"Well, what makes you think you like her?"

"I dunno she's just so pretty, Billy. So pretty. And she smells like candy. And the way her eyes light up when you start talking about something she enjoys is just so cute and I-"

"Slow down Romeo, you gotta stop being mean to her if you want her to feel the same."

"You're not mad?"

"Now why would I be mad?"

"Well she's your sister."

"Oh yea, hurt her and I'll um cut your tounge out."

El giggled quietly, but soon stopped. "You're not against it?"

"Nah, love whoever the fuck you wanna love kid. I don't give a shit, unless it's that Wheeler boy. I don't trust him and I gotta keep my girls safe."

A small smile spread across her face as Billy stood up. He walked to the door, about the turn off the light when El started to talk again.

"Thanks Billy."

He just smiled back at her, turning off the lights, and walking out.

Notes for the Chapter:

27. Twenty-six ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- The time you told me that you wished you were dead •

Trigger warning!

Self harm

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse

Sexual Assault mentions

Anorexia

Smoking

Underage drinking

Addiction

January 14th, 1985

Billy sat in the kitchen, staring at the beer bottle in front of him. God, how long has it been since he touched one? He was going to drink last night, but then they found the kids and well that was a huge mess. He went to grab the bottle when it fell over, shattering on impact with the table. He shut his eyes, wincing at how familiar it sounded.

Him and Max were sitting on the floor doing their homework when Neil walked in. Max was happily sprinkling glitter onto her paper. Neil came up from behind her and looked down at where she was working.

"You better not get any of that one my floor, bitch."

He kicked her in the back causing her to knock over her glitter. The pink and gold flew everywhere. Neil smirked, knowing that he could get her in trouble now. He picked her up with ease, sitting on the couch. "Billy, go get the paddle."

The young blonde had no choice but to obey, otherwise he would be

bent over the knee too. He quickly ran to his fathers room, getting the wooden paddle. Tears stung in his eyes as he made his way back to the living room. Billy handed Neil the torturing device before running to the comfort of his room.

He sat with his knees pulled up to his chest, closing his ears to get rid of his sisters screams. He couldn't help but feel like he was hurting her too. He did nothing to stop his father from hurting the small, helpless child. God he was a horrible brother. This time, enough was enough. He grabbed his baseball bat and ran back to the living room just in time to see Neil smash his beer bottle over Max's head, causing the girl to get knocked out. The young boy ran to his sister, pushing his dad out of the way. He studied the bruises forming on her face, the blood dripping from her nose.

Billy sobbed as he picked up his tiny sisters limp body to the bathroom. He laid her on the floor while he went to go get the first aid kit, towels, and some warm, clean pajamas. He walked back in and started a warm bath for her. He undressed her, crying again once he saw all the scars that littered her fragile body. He put her in the tub, holding her up with one arm while massaging soap in her hair with the other.

Max's eyes open slowly. Her eyes scanned the room before deciding that she was in the bathroom.

"B-billy?"

"I'm so sorry Max, I'm so sorry. I'll get you out of here I promise. I'll kill him if I have to."

"But if I go, you get hurt."

"I don't care. I'm not losing you to him, Maxie."

The ginger relaxed in her brothers arms, sighing as she fell asleep.

Billy's eyes shot open as his breathing got harder. He looked around, remembering his surroundings. Just breathe, you're okay. She's okay you got her out of there, you saved her. You're gonna see he- FUCK!

Billy ran to the phone, dialing Rose's number. Pick up, pick up, pick

u-

"Hello?"

"Rose I-I He-"

"Billy? What's going on?"

"H-he hurt her and I let it-"

"Who Billy?"

Billy sunk down to the floor, sobbing into his hand.

"I'm coming, just hold on."

He heard her hand up as the phone fell to the floor, beeping rapidly. He sobbed for what felt like hours before he heard a soft knock on the door. "Billy! It's Rose, please open the door!" The blonde got up, walking over to the door. He opened it and fell into Rose's warm embrace, sobbing into her shoulder. "Hey it's okay, you're okay. I'm here now."

They were now sitting on the couch. Billy was sipping hot chocolate from his mug while Rose was rubbing his back softly. "You wanna tell me what happened now?"

"He hurt her since she was a child, Rose. He just hit and punched and kicked and- and I didn't do anything. I never stopped him, or told a teacher, or called the police. I never even told her dad! He was just so mad and I- I was scared he would've hurt me too. He did so much more to her, so much Rosie. I could only hear her screaming. Those nights, she would crawl into bed with me. God she was so tiny. I could wrap my arm around her stomach twice."

Rose clicked her tongue, sighing. "It's not your fault, Billy. He's a sick man, and so is her mom. You did everything you could to help her after though. That has to mean something to you. You were there for her."

"It's not enough, I should've helped!"

"You were just a kid, yo-"

"So was she."

Notes for the Chapter:

- A

28. twenty-seven ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- I can't handle rejection •

Trigger warning!

Self harm

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse

Sexual Assault mentions

Anorexia

Smoking

Underage drinking

Addiction

January 15th, 1985

The kids all sat in front of Joyce, each having a look of their own. Will was sitting, fiddling with his fingers, Max was next to him biting her nails, Mike who was next to her was bouncing his leg, El was playing with her split ends, Lucas was biting the skin off his lip, and Dustin was tapping the arm rest.

"So who wants to tell me what happened last night?"

"Mom-"

"I told them that we should sneak out. They listened and we got drunk. I'm really sorry Mrs. Byers."

"God I can't even look at you kids! Go to your rooms, Steve will check up on you and bring food. You're not allowed out until someone comes to get you." She got up and left the room. The rest of the kids stood up, walking to their rooms. Mike grabbed Max's hand, holding her back.

"Mike, we're already in enough trouble as it is. Please let me go. Billy's already mad at me, I don't-"

"We need to talk, Mayfield."

"Well then hurry up!"

He led them back to the couch. "Why did you kiss me?"

"What?"

"Last night when you were sitting on my lap. You whispered something, told me you wanted to make her jealous. I was gonna ask but then you kissed me."

"I do- I was drunk, Mike."

"Do you like me?"

"What, no! That's crazy."

"Then why'd you kiss me?"

"You want the truth?"

"Yea, I do."

"I think I like El."

"What?"

"You heard me."

"Max, she- you- I- wowie."

"Yep, I know."

"So you over Lucas?"

"Not entirely."

"That's okay, you don't have to be over him right away."

"Yeah just a little upset I guess. Stupid feelings, right?"

"Nothing a little ice-cream can't fix."

"First of all, where the fuck are you gonna get ice-cream? Second of all, hell no."

"Meet me in the kitchen at 10, see you Mayfield."

He saluted to her as he walked out. Max just shook her head, chuckling at how stupid he was.

Max looked around, left then right then left again. No one was coming, perfect. She quickly walked to the kitchen. Mike was sitting on one of the tables, eating a pint of strawberry ice-cream. Next to him was a pint of cotton candy ice-cream, unopened, with a spoon sitting next to it.

"Max!" He patted the table, motioning for her to sit next to him. She rolled her eyes and sat on the table, holding the ice cream in her hands. "How'd you know?"

"Educated guess."

She opened the pint carefully, dipping her spoon into the soft pink and blue ice-cream, then plopping it into her mouth, humming as she licked the spoon clean. Mike watched her, his eyes lighting up as he watched her eat. He did it!

"So how'd you know you were gay?"

He nearly choked on the strawberry. "Excuse me, what?"

"Come on Wheeler, I see the way you look at him."

"Fine, seventh grade. This girl, um Stacey I think, she asked me out and I didn't even wanna go. But then I remembered she had an older brother, the whole time I was at her house I kept trying to talk to him."

"That must've been harsh the next day at school."

"Yep, she was a total bitch. What about you?"

"Honestly? Robin's hot as fuck."

Mike chuckled, putting his spoon back into the pint. "For a gay guy, she really is. Hey look at that, you finished your whole pint! Good job, I'm really proud of you Max."

The girl looked down at her now empty pint of ice-cream. She smiled softly, her cheeks turning pink. "I did it, didn't I?"

"You really did! Hey tomorrow we should treat ourselves with chocolate chip pancakes."

"I would like that."

"Here let me go put these spoons in the sink and I'll walk you to your room."

He hopped off the table, going to the sink and putting the spoons in there. He then walked back and helped Max off the table, throwing away the two empty pints of ice-cream. The two walked to Max's room, hand in hand. Max was slightly swinging them as they walked.

"Well here we are, go to sleep. You've earned it." Mike turned to leave when Max grabbed his hand.

"Yeah Mayfield?"

"Thank you," she said getting on her tippy-toes and planting a soft kiss to his cheek. He kissed the top of her head, grinning as he watched her turn and walk into her room, closing the door behind her.

Notes for the Chapter:

(Author: OH MY FUCKING GOD IM SO MAD RN. SO I HAVE EVERY GODDAMN CHAPTER PLANNED OUT IN MY PHONE. EVERYTHING AFTER CHAPTER 43 IS GONE FUCKING SHITTTTTTT. ALSO I FUCKING THIS CHAPTER UP BC THIS WAS NOT ONE OF THE PLOTS AND NOW I HAVE TO FIX IT AND IM GOING TO SCREAM SOMEONE HELP ME PLEASE)

Update: I found it...

- A

29. twenty-eight ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- I just stared and you grinned •

January 15th, 1985

"God Lucas! I can't believe you convinced me to listen to Mike!"

"Hey I just wanted a night out, is that too much to ask for?"

"Yes! Yes it is! My mom's gonna kill me Saturday!"

"You think I'm not gonna get in trouble too? You think I like this?! Anyways this is all Mike's fault why are you yelling at me?!"

"Because! I told you I didn't wanna go but no you insisted!"

"You could've said no!"

"And if I did what would've happened?!"

"What is wrong with you Dustin?"

"I don't wanna hear about you shoving your tongue down another boy's throat Lucas!"

"And why's that?"

Dustin stared at the boy in front of him, his mouth opening and closing like a fish.

"Exactly m-"

Dustin cut him off by kissing him. He pulled away and looked down. "I'm sorry, I don't know-"

"Shut up again kiss me, Henderson."

That's exactly what Dustin did. He pushed Lucas down on the bed, kissing him deeply. Lucas's hands went straight to Dustin's pants,

fiddling with the zipper.

"I want you."

Thank God the nurses all went home.

Notes for the Chapter:

- A

30. twenty-nine ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- just one more day •

January 16th, 1985

Steve slumped in his chair, blowing his hair put of his face. Robin and Olivia walked in, laughing at something that had happened earlier. "Aw what's wrong little Stevie," Robin said hugging him from behind. "Yeah what's wrong, you lose your magnify glass?" Olivia chuckled.

"No, that girl I was supposed to go out with? She stood me up."

"No, who would pass up the opportunity to go out with Steve 'the hair' Harrington?"

"Ha ha very funny Robin."

Olivia sat in the seat next to him, "Hey Steve. You don't need some arm candy to be important. If a girl doesn't want to date you who cares! You have millions of others out there, you just gotta find the right one." She held his hand, smiling brightly at him.

"Yeah Steve, you have hundreds of kids that like you. Your really important to them, and us. Don't know where I'd be without my best bud," Robin said ruffling his hair. He just laughed, pulling her hand away from his hair.

"Thanks guys, and Robin I have plenty of knives for when you wanna touch my hair again."

Notes for the Chapter:

- A

31. thirty ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- And I wonder what's on your mind •

January 17th, 1985

Hopper sat on the hood of his car in front of Enzos. He was smoking a cigarette, waiting for a special someone. Joyce Byers parked her car, getting out. Her purse spilled all over the ground. Jim sighed, tossing his cigarette on the floor and putting it out. He walked over to her, helping her.

"Your Joyce right? You work at the hospital."

"Yea oh your El's dad? Hi Jim, how are you?"

"I'm doing great Joyce, here's your bag."

"Oh thank you so much you didn't have to!"

"It's no problem, really. So why're you here at eight pm?"

"Oh just- you know I have no idea. What about you?"

"I had a date a hour ago! She stood me up, reservations gonna go waste."

"Hey why don't you and I go?"

Hopper smiled, "yeah I think I'd like that."

The two walked inside, enjoying the rest of their night. I'm not gonna say anything, but I think the time at Joyce's house was the best, if ya know what I mean.

Notes for the Chapter:

32. thirty-one ✂

Notes for the Chapter:

- Whisper in my ear, baby •

Trigger warning!

Self harm

Child abuse mentions

Slurs

Substance abuse

Sexual Assault mentions

Anorexia

Smoking

Underage drinking

Addiction

January 20th, 1985

Ah a wonderful day, the annual hospital dance. Max stood in front of the mirror, smiling. She was wearing an above the knee pink dress with a v neckline. It had gold detailing on it her long, red hair was pulled up into a high pony with a scrunchie that had tails on it. Robin had put a little mascara on her and red lipstick. She had rose gold studs that had a pink sapphire gem. On her ring finger sat a rose gold ring that had a blush sapphire gem on it. She had black heels with vines wrapping around the heel part.

Billy walked in and put a silver, chain necklace on her. "You look beautiful," he said kissing the top of her head while wrapping his arms around her neck. "Thanks Billy." He was wearing a grey suit with black shoes. He pulled out a box from behind his back. It held a simple, white corsage in it. "For the best sister in the world," he said placing it on her wrist. She smiled, kissing his cheek. He chuckled when he looked at himself in the mirror. "So who am I gonna yell at for giving my baby sister make-up."

"Steve."

They both laughed at that.

"Yes because Steve wears make-up."

"Yep he's got a big old box in his office."

"Alright well we should go, Robin made cookies."

"Oh my god! Her cookies are the best."

"Yeah they are."

Mike knocked at the door, standing with his hands in his pockets. Billy and Max turned around. The redhead went up to him, giving him a tight hug. Mike was wearing brown shoes with a pink suit. "Never took you for a pink kinda girl Mayfield. Or a dress kinda girl, or a girl at all."

"Ha ha very funny, can we go now?"

Mike linked their arms together, "of course we can your royal pain in the ass." Max punched his arm lightly, smiling. Billy looked at the two, an unamused look on his face. "Billy how many times, I'm gay!"

Robin stood next to El smiling. El was wearing a long black dress. The top part was a sleeveless corset that was black see-thru tulle going from the bottom of her breasts all the way down to the bottom of the dress. It had black flowers all over. She had on red, sparkly heels that buckled at the ankle. Her hair was down. She had on silver hoops and a silver Cartier wedding band on her wrist. On her neck lay a silver heart with her mom's birthday to her death date engraved on it. She had on light pink shimmer on her eyes and nude lipstick. "Hey don't worry, you look perfect." Robin said putting a hand on her shoulder.

Robin was wearing a knee high baby blue dress with a corset type bodes. It had moons and stars and other things that do with astrology on it. The dress had a spaghetti strap. Her hair was in a half up half down style and she had pink moons on her ears. Instead of heels she chose her red high top converse.

Autumn walked in smiling at the two girls. She walked over to her

girlfriend, kissing her cheek. Autumn was wearing a blush colored dress that had different colored stars all over. It had a Slit in one side. The top, again, was a corset type. The sleeve weren't attached to the dress so she had the option of keeping them on or off. She decided to keep them on. Her blonde hair was pulled into a bun. She had on baby pink lace up heels. "Hey girls, who's ready to dance?"

El shook her head looking at the two nurses in front of her. "No no I don't wanna go now."

"El, you look beautiful. What's the matter, you were so excited yesterday."

She wrapped her arms around herself. "What if I see her and say the wrong thing? Oh God she's gonna look so beautiful. I can't go."

"El, talk to her. Tell her how nice she looks."

"I can't I'm gonna say the wrong thing and she'll hate me forever."

"Ask her to dance!"

"No don't do that, just tell her she looks pretty and then come hang with us."

"Okay Okay I think- I think I can do that."

"Atta girl! Now let's go have some fun."

Steve was helping Dustin get ready. He was wearing an off-white suit. In Lucas's opinion, he looked like a whole ass piece of school chalk, but he pulled it off well. Dustin was wearing a tan suit while Lucas was wearing a plain black suit. Will, the cutie he is was wearing an adorable baby blue suit. His hideous bowl cut disappeared for one night. Jonathan was wearing a navy blue suit.

Nancy was wearing an above the knee baby pink dress. It had flower detailing all over and a pink bow belt right in the middle of the dress. It also had very scratchy quarter length sleeves. Her hair was down in beach waves. Olivia was wearing a long red dress that had flowers all

over. It had spaghetti straps. Her long blonde hair was all the way down to her waist. She had on black stilettos.

Rose was wearing a long blue dress that had small white flowers detailed onto it. It had a pretty neckline.

Mike and Max walked in linking arms. "Oh look there's our friends," Mike said. Max sighed, laying her head on her best friend's arm. She intertwined their fingers. "Yeah let's go, but then can we dance?" He looked down at her, kissing the top of her head. The two walked over to the group of four. "Hey Mike! You look great!" Will said putting down his cup of punch. Mike blushed and looked down at his shoes, "Thanks Will. Y-you look good t-too!"

El stared at Max, mouth open slightly. God she's so pretty. Why couldn't she look like she fell off a balcony? This is going to be so much harder for El. The brunette just kept staring, heart beating loudly in her ears.

"H-hey Max, you look pretty. Really pretty."

Max had the biggest smile El had ever seen. *I got that smile, me! She's smiling because of me.* She wished she could take a picture and keep it forever.

"Thanks El! You look amazing, I love your dress."

Mike grabbed the redhead's hand and walked to the 'dance floor'. Max gave a little wave as she left.

"Alright everyone! Time for the slow dance!"

El and Will decided to just go for fun. Mike and Max were dancing like crazy people. Dustin had gone to the bathroom while a random girl decided to take Lucas to the dance floor and dance with him.

Notes for the Chapter:

- A